SOUDAN IRON MINE
Soudan State Park
Tower vicinity
St. Louis County
Minnesota

HAER NO. MN-30

HAER
MINN,
69-TOW.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
SITE DATA FORM

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY
Minnesota	St. Louis	Tower vicinity

HISTORIC NAME: SOUDAN IRON MINE

HAER NO.: MN-30

SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES: HAER MINN, 69-TOW. V, 1-

COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL AREAS)
Tower-Soudan State Park

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: opened 1884

ENGINEER, BUILDER, OR FABRICATOR: Charlemagne Tower, president, Minnesota Iron Company

SIGNIFICANCE (TECHNOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE)
The Soudan Iron mine contained one of the richest iron deposits in the country, and is the oldest and deepest underground mine. Its opening in 1884 marked the emergence of Minnesota as the laeding iron-ore producing state in America.

STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)
buildings of either brick or corrugated metal construction, steel frame headframe (engine house)

SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)
The mine itself extends to a depth of 2,500 ft., with drifts or tunnels running 3/4 mile to the east and west of the main shaft.

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE
headframe, engine house, conveyor, trolley, crusher

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT)
mining machinery: tugger operator, driller, trolley, eimco loader, Grandby and trolley cars, miner's lunchroom

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES
open pit mining ceased in the 1890's, the mine became inactive in 1962, and in 1963 the mine with 1,000 acres was given to the state of Minnesota by U.S. Steel.

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE
inactive as mine, used as State Park with tours and exhibits

OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE
At its peak production in 1892 the Soudan mine shipped more than 568,000 tons of high grade iron ore and employed 1,800 men.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY LANDMARK DESIGNATIONS, ETC.)
National Register nomination, prepared by Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Review Project, January 1976.

COMPILER, AFFILIATION	DATE
C. Lavoie, Historian, HABS/HAER	Jan. 1989